

MA THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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PRESS RELEASE

THE GRAND TOUR
October 15 - February 2, 1986

An exhibition of ninety prints from the collections of The Cleveland Museum of Art recalls the Grand Tours of Europe and the Near East made by Americans during the era of the great passenger steamships, between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of the Second World War. The exhibition traces roughly the itinerary of the Grand Tour described by Mark Twain in The Innocents Abroad, published in 1869, taking the viewer from New York to London and Paris, across the Alps to Italy and Sicily, then on to Greece, Constantinople, the Holy Land, and Egypt.

Most of the prints which illustrate the tour were made between 1865 and 1940 by European and American artists, some famous, others little known. London is viewed primarily through etchings produced at the turn of the century by Joseph Pennell, who also executed the large lithographs of ancient ruins in Sicily and Athens. Auguste Lepère's wood engravings depict 19th-century Paris while John Marin's etchings show the city in the early 20th century. Color lithographs of the Holy Land and Egypt by David Roberts and Louis Haghe, although published during the first half of the 19th century, depict sites which would have looked much the same at the end of the century. Wall labels quoting from The Innocents Abroad, Sinclair Lewis's Dodsworth, and Karl Baedeker's guide books complement the prints and help to convey the sense of wonder and discovery experienced by Americans on the Grand Tour.

The exhibition was organized by Louise S. Richards, chief curator of prints and drawings at the Museum. It will remain on view through February 2, 1986.

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